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FRENCH MINIATURES

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A COLLECTION OF FRENCH MINIATURES OF THE XVIII CENTURY

MOUNTED ON BONBONNIERES IN THE LOUIS XV AND LOUIS XVI STYLES

London
n.d.

A COLLECTION OF FRENCH MINIATURES

OF THE XVIII CENTURY

MOUNTED ON BONBONNIÈRES IN THE LOUIS XV AND LOUIS XVI STYLES

1. MINIATURE PORTRAIT OF THE COMTESSE DE TOULOUSE, in round medallion with chased coloured gold frame, painted in water-colours on vellum and signed "HEINSIUS." In bright blue outdoor dress, with a fold of white muslin fastened with a posy of flowers over a lace chemisette. A pleasant round face, with curly light chestnut hair falling in long ringlets over the back and shoulders. Cool landscape background.

   Circular clear tortoiseshell box with coloured gold hoops chased with laurel leaves.

2. MINIATURE PORTRAIT OF A GENTLEMAN, in round medallion with gold frame, painted in water-colours on vellum by HÉNARD. In the costume of the "Directoire" period, brown velvet coat with ample facings and collar, red waistcoat and

white stock and frill. A fine elderly face, with wavy white hair naturally dressed. Cool gray background.

Circular clear tortoiseshell box mounted in engraved gold, with side and bottom inlaid with gold stars.

3. Miniature three-quarter length Portrait of Madame de Châtillon, on large rectangular panel framed in engraved gold; painted in water-colours on vellum by Antoine Vestier. In low-necked light-coloured shot silk dress, with corsage edged with pearls, and long white striped silk grenadine veil. A youthful, pretty face, with light chestnut hair dressed with a string of pearls. Her right arm resting on a marble pillar with a perfume-burner at her side and a brass vase filled with flowers at her feet. Background, a marble hall.

Rectangular clouded tortoiseshell box, richly mounted in chased, coloured gold.

4. Miniature Portrait of Mademoiselle de Brétigny, in round medallion framed in pearls, painted in water-colours and "gouache" on vellum by Dumont. In semi low-necked slate-gray dress and olive-green loosely draped shawl. A charming girlish face, with curly black hair dressed with a white silk ribbon and falling in a graceful undulating mass over her back. Dark gray background.

Circular clear tortoiseshell box, inlaid with gold lozenges and flowerets, lid enriched with a border of pearls.

5. Miniature Portrait of a Lady as a Bacchante, in round medallion framed in gold, painted in water-colours and "gouache" on vellum. School of Greuze. A very fair-complexioned face, with Titian-red hair dressed with vine foliage, a tiger skin loosely thrown round her bust. Background of conventional sky.

Circular clouded tortoiseshell box with chased gold borders and inlaid with alternating stripes of red and yellow gold.

6. Miniature Portrait of Madame la Vicomtesse de la Brestonnière, painted in water-colours on vellum by Antoine Vestier. In open white muslin gown finished with a tucker. Represented leaning on a garden wall with a rustic basket of flowers in her hands. A graceful slender figure with oval face, powdered hair dressed "à la Marie Antoinette" and adorned with a spray of roses. A park in the background.

Circular clear tortoiseshell box with pierced gold borders and inlaid with stripes of red and yellow engraved gold.

7. Miniature Portrait of Mademoiselle de Beaujolais, painted in water-colours on vellum by Heinsius. In low cut simple white gown of soft texture and wide blue silk sash. A girlish face with an abundance of slightly powdered dark hair elaborately dressed and caught up in a blue ribbon; her right arm resting on a balustrade. Dark gray background.

Circular clear tortoiseshell box with gold borders engraved with twisted ribbons and inlaid with stripes of red and yellow engraved gold.

8. Miniature Portrait of a Lady, on rectangular panel in engraved gold frame, painted in water-colours on vellum, in the character of the "Bouquetière," after Baudoin, by Mademoiselle Ledoux. In low cut dress with full puffed muslin half sleeves and pink bodice, laced with pale yellow ribbon; carrying on her head a basket of roses, from which emerges a cupid darting his arrow. Finely modelled arms and neck, fair face, and hair dressed with a white lace cap. Warm gray background.

Rectangular clouded tortoiseshell box richly bordered with variously coloured chased gold.

9. Miniature Portrait of Mademoiselle de Janzé, painted in water-colours on vellum, signed and dated "Sicardi 1786." In simple white muslin frock, trimmed with pearls round the neck and wrists. A most charming young face with delicate

complexion, light auburn hair, dressed in curls over the forehead, and caught up in a pale yellow ribbon with row of pearls. Her left elbow is resting on the arm of a blue sofa, and a blue drapery forms the effective background.

Oval agate box, mounted in gold, chased with twisted ribbons, border of lid chased with a garland of flowers in coloured gold.

10. Miniature Portrait of Mademoiselle Duchanois, painted in water-colours on vellum by Isabey. In white low cut Empire gown and green velvet mantle, braided with embroidery. A young girl with handsome regular features and beautiful complexion; light auburn hair dressed in the fashion of the period, with short ringlets falling over the ears; wearing a treble row of pearls with sapphire fastening round her neck. Background of natural blue sky.

Oval clouded tortoiseshell box with lid bordered with pearls, mounted in gold, and inlaid on side and bottom with gold stars.

11. Miniature Portrait of a young Gentleman painted in water-colours on vellum, signed and dated "Thouesny 1738." A fine prepossessing figure, elegantly dressed in a light blue velvet coat and a waistcoat of carmine and white striped silk with wide facings, white stock and bow. A handsome oval face, with well cut features and powdered hair. Gray background.

Circular clouded tortoiseshell box richly mounted in chased coloured gold, and inlaid with lozengular ornaments and rosettes in red and yellow gold.

12. Miniature Portrait of a Lady in oval medallion with engraved gold frame, painted in water-colours on vellum; artist unknown. In purple velvet dress trimmed with blue ribbon, white muslin fichu and chemisette. A round face, with an abundance of powdered, brown hair elaborately curled and caught up in a blue ribbon. Warm light brown background.

Circular clear tortoiseshell box mounted in gold, border of lid engraved with laurel leaves.

13. Miniature Portrait of a Lady in large oval medallion, with gold frame chased with laurel leaves, painted in water colours on vellum by Hall. In low cut pink dress trimmed with a ruching; dark brown hair caught up in a white ribbon. Represented sitting in a picturesque attitude, her right arm resting on a table and with her left hand playing with a pet dog standing on books and leaning on her shoulder. Warm gray background.

Octagonal clouded tortoiseshell box, handsomely mounted in gold with chased border and thumb-piece.

14. Miniature Portrait of Madame de Canillac, painted in water-colours on vellum and signed by Sené. In low cut white muslin gown with short sleeves; represented sitting in an armchair with a table before her and a vase of roses at her side, and in the act of fastening a message round the neck of a dove. A charmingly expressive face, with powdered hair

elaborately dressed "à la Pompadour," finely modelled arms and shoulders and beautiful complexion. Blue background.

Circular clear tortoiseshell box with wide borders in chased coloured gold and richly inlaid with flowerets in yellow gold enframed in small red gold squares.

15. MINIATURE PORTRAIT OF MADAME DUCLOS, in round medallion with engraved gold frame, painted in water-colours on vellum by DUMONT. In blue dress, attached from the shoulders, yellow bodice trimmed with pink ribbon, white tucker and muslin handkerchief thrown over her shoulders; light auburn hair falling in natural locks round the neck and dressed in a white lace cap with large pink bow; wearing large gold ear-rings. Slate-gray background.

Circular clear tortoiseshell box mounted in gold, border richly chased with garlands in translucent enamel studded with rose diamonds, and inlaid on side and bottom with gold stars and lunettes.

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